

SPECIAL TAX FOR MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND FURNISHING FREE TEXT BOOKS.

H. J. R. No. 27.]

Proposing an amendment to Art. 7 of the Constitution of the State of Texas by changing Sec. 3 providing for a thirty-five cent tax levy for the maintenance of the public schools of Texas and providing free text books in the public schools of the State of Texas, and making an appropriation therefor.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. That Section 3, Article 7, of the Constitution be so changed as to read as follows: (creating a new Sec. 3)

Sec. 3. One-fourth of the revenue derived from the State occupation taxes and a poll tax of one (\$1.00) dollar on every male inhabitant of this State, between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years, shall be set apart annually for the benefit of the public free schools; and, in addition thereto, there shall be levied and collected an annual ad valorem State tax of such an amount not to exceed thirty-five cents on the one hundred (\$100.00) dollar valuation, as, with the available school fund arising from all other sources, will be sufficient to maintain and support the public schools of this State for a period of not less than six months in each year and it shall be the duty of the State Board of Education to set aside a sufficient amount out of the said tax to provide free text books for the use of children attending the public free schools of this State; provided, however, that should the limit of taxation herein named be insufficient the deficit may be met by appropriation from the general funds of the State and the Legislature may also provide for the formation of school districts by general or special law without the local notice required in other cases of special legislation; and all such school districts, whether created by general or special, law may embrace parts of two or more counties. And the Legislature shall be authorized to pass laws for the assessment and collection of taxes in all said districts, and for the management and control of the public school or schools of such district, whether such districts are composed of territory wholly within a county or in parts of two or more counties. And the Legislature may authorize an additional ad valorem tax to be levied and collected within all school districts heretofore formed or hereafter formed, for the further maintenance of public free schools, and the erection and equipment of school buildings therein; provided, that a majority of the qualified property tax-paying voters of the district voting at an election to be held for that purpose, shall vote such tax, not to exceed in any one year fifty cents on the one hundred dollar valuation of the property subject to taxation in such district but the limitation upon the amount of school district tax herein authorized shall not apply to incorporated cities or towns constituting separate and independent school districts.

SEC. 2. The foregoing constitutional amendment shall be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the State at an election to be

held throughout the State on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1918, at which election all voters favoring said proposed amendment shall write or have printed on their ballots the words, "For the amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas providing for the levy of a special school tax for the maintenance of the public schools of the State and to provide free text books in the public schools of the State of Texas," and all those opposed shall write or have printed on their ballots the words, "Against the amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas providing for the levy of a special school tax for the maintenance of the public schools of the State and to provide free text books in the public schools of the State of Texas."

SEC. 3. The Governor of the State is hereby directed to issue the necessary proclamation for said election and to have same published as required by the Constitution and existing laws of the State.

SEC. 4. That the sum of two thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the Treasury of the State, of Texas not otherwise appropriated, to pay the expenses of such publication and election.

[NOTE.—H. J. R. No. 27 passed the House of Representatives by a two-thirds vote, yeas 108, nays 22; and passed the Senate by a two-thirds vote, yeas 23, nays 4.]

Approved March 19, 1917.